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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/550,572	MATSUMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Debra Wolfe	3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on September 21, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

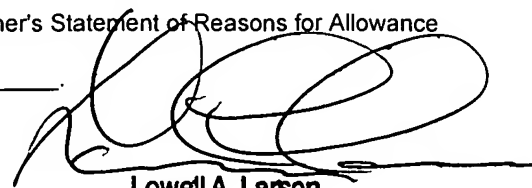
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|


Lowell A. Larson
 Primary Examiner



NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

1. It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious a press forming machine comprising "a gap between a driving shaft engaged with the pressure plate at the central pressure point and the pressure plate is larger than a gap between a driving shaft engaged with each of the peripheral pressure points and the pressure plate" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in independent claim 1.

Further searching by the examiner yielded additional prior art as follows:

2. Mukai et al (U.S. Patent # 6,595,122) discloses a slide inclination correcting apparatus in a press machinery having a machine bed, a pressure plate (slide 7) facing the fixed plate thus forming a space between the pressure plate and the fixed plate and being capable of reciprocating, a plurality of driving shafts (plunger 9) for pressing the pressure plate (slide 7), a plurality of driving sources (4) and a control means [col. 10 line 15] having a slide inclination correcting means (16) detects and corrects an inclination such that the lower load side of the slide is raised by the required amount [col. 10 lines 10-45].

Plazenet (U.S. Patent # 5,243,902) discloses a hydraulic bending press with a movable lower platen comprising of at least three hydraulic jacks, two of which are placed at the lateral end of the movable platen and at least one is placed at the center along the axis of the platen.

3. The above cited prior art fails to disclose a "gap between a driving shaft engaged with the pressure plate at the central pressure point and the pressure plate is larger than a gap between a



driving shaft engaged with each of the peripheral pressure points and the pressure plate.” Therefore, it is concluded that claim 1 of the present invention is allowable subject matter over the prior art. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Wolfe whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Thursday 6am - 3:30pm with alternating Friday 6am - 2:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lowell A. Larson", is written over a horizontal line.

Lowell A. Larson
Primary Examiner

Debra Wolfe
Examiner
Art Unit 3725